GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:577
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
TRAIN ACCIDENTS
Murmu Shri Hemlal;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past there has been sharp increase in the train accidents;

(b) if so, the number of train accidents reported during the last six months;

(c) the number of persons killed / injured in these accidents;

(d) the main reasons for such accidents;

(e) whether the Government has inquired into these train accidents;

(f) if so, the details thereof; (g) the detail of the injured and deceased person along with the total compensation paid to the injured persons and to the next kith and kin of deceased persons; and (h) the steps taken to avert such accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (h): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.577 BY SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA AND SHRI HEMLAL MURMU TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 28.02.2008 REGARDING TRAIN ACCIDENTS.

(a): No, Sir. Instead, there has been a decline in the number of consequential train accidents during the current year as well as during the last six months period of August, 2007 to January, 2008 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) to (d): 97 consequential train accidents have occurred during the last six months period of August, 2007 to January, 2008 causing death of 66 persons and injury to 232. Out of 97 accidents 57 accidents are attributed to failure of railway staff, 27 due to failure of other than railway staff, 4 due to sabotage, 6 cases were incidental and 3 cases are under investigation.

(e) & (f): Each and every train accident is enquired either departmentally or through Commissioners of Railway Safety depending upon the seriousness of the accident. During August, 2007 to January, 2008, 12 accidents have been taken up for inquiry by the Commission of Railway Safety.

(g): Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no decree has been awarded.

(h): Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234 in 2005-06 and further to 195 in 2006-07.